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C. Keith Harrison

Washington State University

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Curing the Isolation: The Student-Athlete Empowerment Project (S.A.E.P.)

Dr. C. Keith Harrison

Washington State University

This new project, begun in the fall of 1995, allows current and former student-athletes to make a smoother transition from sport to society.

This presentation will describe and explain the aspects of a nationwide program! project that allows student-athletes and former student-athletes to make a smoother transition from sport to society. The project began in the fall of 1995, and currently has nearly twenty-five former and current student-athletes involved. The key to the project is to help participants find commonalities in the working world, with their most inner desires, dreams, and passions. This is all done by the founder, C. Keith Harrison, through his resources of professional colleagues, contacts, and knowledge of career development. Formally, the project focuses on the following aspects:

- A. Exposure (panels, conferences, professional organizations).
- B. Consulting (information and knowledge).
- C. Connection (traditional and non-traditional networking).
- D. Diversity (people that look like participants and people who do not look like participants).
- E. Feedback from students (Questions and Answers Reflection Sheet).

PRESENTER

Dr. C. Keith Harrison is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Teaching and the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies at Washington State University. He received an AA in physical education from Cerritos College (1987), a B.S. in physical education from West Texas State (1990), an M.A in physical education (Magna Cum Laude) from California State University at Dominguez Hills (1992), and an Ed.D in higher and post-secondary education at the University of Southern California (1995).

Harrison has been a football coach at Cerritos College, Norwalk, California, and a student-athlete consultant with Pullman University. His research interests include: perceptions of African American male student-athletes in higher education; physical education pedagogy of children and specifically, black youth; leadership positions in sport by groups underrepresented in society, but overrepresented in athletics; retention and career patterns of student-athletes outside of sports; and historical ideologies and implications of early African American male student-athletes and athletes. Recent publications include: "Successful Strategies for Empowering African American Male Student-Athletes" in *The National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletes (N4A)* (1995).